

Clues Continued...

Walk to the alley—it's named Basin Street.
Turn left one last time, feeling gravel under your feet.
A tin-roofed old carriage barn should be in your sight.
The stately white Elson home will be on your right.

Walk between barn and house, continue to go
To a small red building, once a railroad depot.
In the 1870s trains started running through Magnolia,
But now the depot and train tracks are just memorabilia.

Turn right up the driveway between the house and the mill—
There's still one more test of your questing skill.
To find the small box that contains the stamp treasure,
In the front of the mill, look for something that measures.

Here's a clue: it's under the Fitz Water Wheel sign—
A large box with a window that opens from behind.
Lift up the hasp and open the horizontal doors.
The balance scales inside help the farmers with a chore.

They have to weigh the full trucks that they brought in,
Some grain for animal feed and some grain for grindin'.
Sometimes you can still hear the chief miller say it:
"If they don't weigh it, we won't pay it!"

To the right of the scales is a little nook.
This is where for the treasure box you should look.
Be stealthy! Don't give away what you're doing.
The stamp box is not for non-quester viewing.

Sign into the logbook and stamp this brochure.
Then seal and re-hide the stamp box to finish your tour.
If the store is open, you can venture inside,
Perhaps some fresh cornmeal to buy.

How to Quest

Quest clues and maps—created by teachers, volunteers, and/or park staff—will help you discover the natural and cultural gems of the Ohio & Erie Canalway. At the end of each quest is a hidden treasure box. Sign your name in the logbook, stamp this page, and return the box to its hiding place.

STAMP HERE

**The questing season runs from
April 15 through November 15.**

Notice a problem or have suggestions for improving this quest? Contact Mary Hultman at 330-409-8096 or mhultman@starkparks.com.

About This Program

I'm Arrye Rosser, interpretive and education specialist at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I'd like to thank everyone who helped fulfill my dream of bringing questing to Ohio. This project was made possible by the generous support of a 2010 Parks as Classrooms grant from the National Park Service and is a partnership between many organizations.

So far, more than 70 teachers, volunteers, and park staff have been involved in writing and field testing our initial series of Canalway Quests. Our plan is to create many more in the years ahead. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at 440-546-5992 or arrye_rosser@nps.gov.

Special thanks to Emily Bryant and Steven Glazer.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway celebrates the rails, trails, landscapes, towns, and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the canal that helped Ohio and our nation grow.

**For more information and to get copies of other quests,
visit www.nps.gov/cuva and search for keyword "questing."**



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Canalway Quest

Magnolia Mill Quest

Take a short, easy stroll around this historic mill, learning its history through rhyme.



This quest was created by Mary Hultman, a naturalist for Stark Parks.

Planning Ahead

This treasure hunt takes about 25 minutes. Trail surfaces are either hard or grassy. Walking shoes are recommended. You will need a pen or pencil to sign the logbook. Some people prefer using their own signature stamp and ink pad or marker.

This quest is best enjoyed when the mill is open: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. The mill is closed Wednesdays and Sundays. Allow extra time to visit the store to buy cornmeal, birdseed, animal feed, and other items. For a schedule of mill tours, visit www.starkparks.com.

Getting There

Start at Magnolia Flouring Mills, 261 Main Street, Magnolia, Ohio 44643. The location is just north of the SR 183 and SR 542 intersection. Park along the edge of the mill parking lot.

Clues

Magnolia Mill, your quest destination,
Stands before you commanding admiration.
With over 170 years in continuous operation,
It's recognized as a historic site by our nation.

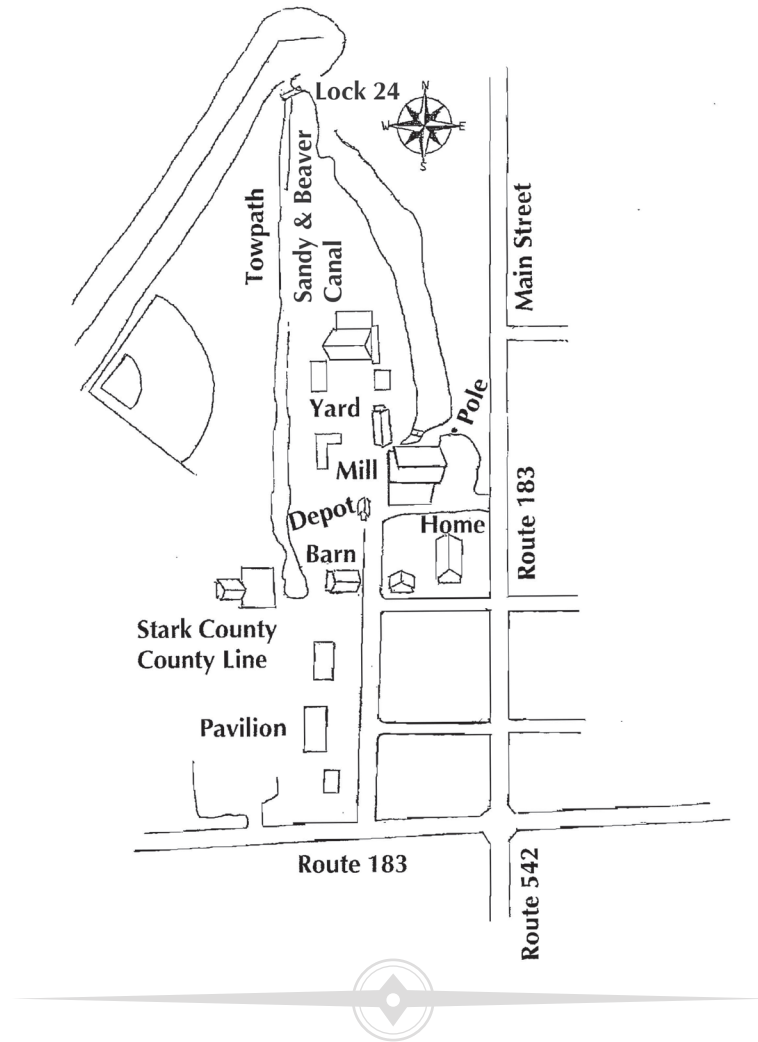
Born in 1797, Richard Elson was the man
Who, in 1834, settled here and bought this land.
Twelve hundred dollars for a quarter section*—
Ohio was then the frontier expansion direction.

*One quarter of a square mile, or 160 acres

He built a house, he plowed his fields,
But needed customers for his crop yields.
He fashioned float boats to make the trip
From Ohio down the old Mississipp'.

In New Orleans he emptied his boats and made his sales,
Then he walked home, thwarting thieves on the trails.
One thousand miles each way he trekked,
Seven trips down and back, direct.*

*Due to an outbreak of cholera and yellow fever in the South,
Elson made one return trip by sailing up the Atlantic coastline,
and then walking back to Ohio from New York.



Then Richard heard in 1828
A new feeder canal was being made.
From the Ohio & Erie Canal, 73 miles it would go
To Glasgow, Pa., on the river Ohio.

When young Elson heard the canal route was comin',
Thoughts of opportunity in his mind started hummin'.
This new water supply large mill wheels could turn—
Ground flour and cornmeal some real cash could earn!

He built the Magnolia Mill in 1834
With hand-hewn beams and wooden floors.
With huge stones he ground the grains up fine,
And a village grew around the mill in just a short time.

How many stories tall is the mill? _____
Be sure to count the basement, where waterwheels lie still.

Walk to the north side of the mill and face the old mill race,*
Just beyond the tall pole with the beaver in place.
The race was constructed to power the wheels.
The wheels turned the stones, the stones ground the meal.

*A narrow impoundment of water

Turn to the left and look for a small door that's unlocked
On the side of the building, surrounded by block.
Open the latch to peek inside—
How many waterwheels do you spy?

Re-latch the door, then cross the small bridge.
Follow the path along the mill race ridge.
Another mill-powered company on your left still stands,
The green sign on the roof names the buildings in this strand.

Follow the ridge to the end of the race.
When you get to a footbridge, slow down the pace.
Look for the remnants of Lock 24:
Sandstone and wood beams in mud near the shore.

Sandy & Beaver Canal's name was based
On the two creeks whose courses it traced.
Its construction began in 1828, but 20 years later
It still was not a good moneymaker.

The young S & B Canal met its final depletion,
Just a few years after its delayed completion.
In 1852, Lisbon's Cold Run Dam failed,
The canal was destroyed when floodwaters assailed.

Stroll over the bridge that spans the canal bed.
There's a flood-guarding dike looming ahead.
Turn left down the towpath where mules once pulled boats,
Reclaimed now by nature as fish, frogs, and flowers denote.

Walk on past the mill and look for an Army Corps plaque.
The trail seems to end soon, but do not turn back.
Squeeze between the chain link fence and sycamore tree,
And Magnolia Village Park up ahead you will see.

Here the canal water goes underground,
Making space for pavilions, bandstands, and pitcher's mounds.
Turn left again in fairly short order,
Or you'll be stepping over the county border.